



South County Historical Society

Heritage Press

Volume 17, No 5

JUNE 2013



HISTORIC IOOF HALL

With the passing of **Howard Mankins**, the Society has lost a long-time friend and supporter. Howard managed the restoration of the IOOF Hall on Bridge Street donating not only his time, but materials as well. He also

**KIRK'S
KORNER**



(Continued on bottom of page 3)



SANTA MANUELA SCHOOLHOUSE



CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS

Jan Scott

It's May and activities are picking up everywhere. Before we get to our 2013 Summer Historic Theatre season, I wanted to remind you of other events going on:



PAULDING HISTORY HOUSE

SLO HISTORY CENTER has a new exhibit on Native American baskets. You may have noticed a nice writeup in *The Tribune* a couple of weeks ago, featuring a front and center picture of a very rare Chumash water jug basket, on loan from Paulding History House. If you have time, and I haven't seen it yet, I'm told the exhibit is quite splendid.



HERITAGE HOUSE

The OCEANO DEPOT is having a very special celebration on June 8th & 9th called *Dunite Days*, when the colony that lived in the Dunes will be celebrated with special exhibits and events. (We postponed opening our summer theatre by a week, to not interfere with this new and interesting event).



RUBY'S HOUSE

and a request --

THROW PILLOWS may be an odd request, but we need some. If you have old ones lying around that you no longer need, call the office at 489-8282 and let Joe know.



THE BARN

SUMMER HISTORIC THEATRE

We're back! For our third season. As you know, if you've been with us for the last years, the performances are given on Saturday afternoons at 2PM in the IOOF Hall, across from McLintocks in the Village. The shows are under an hour in length, and it's a nice break after walking around exploring Farmers Market and our Village. (see flier)

We begin this year with *Vigilantes!* (formerly titled *This Terrible Tragedy*), the story of the only vigilante activity ever recorded in South County. The year was 1886 and a murderer and his father were taken out and hanged. But his father hadn't even been at the scene of the shooting. The reverberations from this act echo right down into the present day.

Some of our cast couldn't return this year, so even if you saw it last year, you'll want to see new people telling this fascinating story. Some of our audiences came back more than once *last* year because they found the tale so compelling. Don't miss it this time around. And remember the

Members Only

wine reception and preview on June 14th (see enclosed notice).

MUSEUMS SCHEDULE

THE BARN

HERITAGE HOUSE

SANTA MANUELA SCHOOLHOUSE

are open
Saturdays
from 12 to 3 pm
Sundays
from 1 to 4 pm

PAULDING HISTORY HOUSE

is open
1st Saturday of the month
From 12 to 3 pm

RUBY'S HOUSE

(PAT LOOMIS HISTORY LIBRARY)

is open
Monday thru Friday
1 to 5 pm

Historical Research
by appointment

Group tours
of any or all
of the museums
may be scheduled
by calling
805.489.8282
or email
SCHS76@sbcglobal.net

2013 Board of Directors

Kirk Scott	President
Steven Singer	Vice President
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Jan Scott	Curator of Collections
Ross Kongable	Membership
Vivian Krug	Public Information
Linda Kime	Docent Leader
Joe Swigert	Property Manager
Jeff Kime	Information Systems
Gary Hoving	Parliamentarian

EVENTS SCHEDULE

Dunite Days

June 8-9 at Oceano Depot

SUMMER CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Bi-weekly beginning June 9

Summer Historic Theatre

Saturdays -
beginning June 15



The PRICE HOUSE in Pismo Beach

Is now open for tours on the
First and Third Sundays of the month
At 1:00 pm.
Or by appointment

Call
Effie McDermott
805 . 773 . 4854
For more informaton



San Luis Obispo County native, philanthropist, cattle rancher, businessman, politician, religious leader and legendary figure on the Central Coast, passed away Sunday, May 19, 2013, in Santa Maria at the age of 86.

Howard's ancestors were early settlers of California, with the majority of them finally settling in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara County. He was very interested in genealogy and traced his ancestry back to having settled in the United States in early 1644.

His family moved to the Huasna area and lived on different ranches until they eventually found their own and settled down.

Howard was born in March 1927 with an identical twin brother, Harold Dean Mankins, to Ethel Bair Mankins and Alvin Burton Mankins in Los Berros, Calif. They joined brothers Lester Mankins, Allan Mankins and later the family was completed with Gordan Mankins.

Howard attended a one-room school house in Huasna, which he attended to the eighth grade. He then attended Arroyo Grande High School and graduated in 1945. After high school, he went directly into the U.S. Army and did basic training at Camp Roberts. He and Harold transferred to Fort Lewis, Wash., and were sent to Korea as the occupation force from 1945 to 1947. During this time in Korea, Howard and Harold were separated, but Howard was quickly able to get his brother transferred to the same base - they weren't used to spending time apart.

Howard was discharged two years later and returned to San Luis Obispo, where he started school at San Luis Junior College. He graduated with honors and then started at Woodbury College (now Woodbury University) in Los Angeles, where he graduated with honors from there as well. He then went to Mexico City to attend The University of the Americas to work on his master's degree.

Howard moved back to San Luis Obispo County and, along with his brother, purchased Brisco's Mill and Lumber in Arroyo Grande from their Uncle Leo Brisco. They enhanced the business from a lumber yard to include a retail hardware store. They later added the paint, glass and gift shop.

In early 1961, Howard was introduced to Aileen Burton, of Santa Maria. They were married in October 1961 in Ogden, Utah and were blessed with two sons, Mark in 1963, and Blair in 1966.

Howard was very interested in politics and started his political career with his involvement with the Port San Luis Harbor District. He then ran for and was elected as 4th District County Supervisor and held that office for three terms. After a brief break, he was elected the Mayor of Arroyo Grande.

Over the years, he also held various positions on numerous boards, including the Pension Trust, which he was still on until the day he passed away.

Howard was passionate about giving back to the community that he grew up in. He loved being able to help others dreams become reality, and was blessed to be able to do this through educational scholarships and supporting local youth organizations and local community service groups. Howard was a life member of the Historical Society, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Cal Shasta Club and numerous others.

Howard is survived by his wife, Aileen; sons Mark (Ginger) and Blair (DeAnne); eight grandchildren Marissa, Miles, Megan, Chandler, Monica, Kayla, Ethan and Ava; many nieces and nephews; and his two Corgis, Colonel and Scout. He was preceded in death by his parents; four siblings; uncle, Leo; and aunt, Minta Brisco.

A church service will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, May 24, 2013, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 751 S. Traffic Way in Arroyo Grande, with a graveside service at noon at the Arroyo Grande Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Howard's honor may be directed to the South County Historical Society, P.O. Box 633, Arroyo Grande, CA 93421.

Memorials may also be dropped off at Brisco's.

Bye-bye Papa!

Kirk's Korner - Continued from page 1)

supported the renovation of Heritage House on South Mason. The Society has recently established a 'Museum Building Fund' in his memory, and all memorial donations will be entered there.

Our sincere condolences to his family from the Board of Directors and members of the South County Historical Society

BRANCH SCHOOL LIVING HISTORY DAY

On May 16th we had a extra special event at our museums. Branch Elementary School brought the entire school over for a Living History Day. There were 306 children, ages 5 to 12 years. With parents and teachers there were **382 total!**

The students were organized into 17 groups and they went through the Barn Museum, the Santa Manuela Schoolhouse, and Heritage House. We also had docents giving a talk about the Swinging Bridge and its history.



The school set up a few more stations of their own. At one, Mona Tucker, a descendant of the Chumash Indians, spoke to the children. At another, a model railroad group set up some trains and there were some very noisy "Hit 'N Miss" engines on display in Heritage Square Park with one running making its distinctive "POP whoosh whoosh whoosh whoosh POP" sound.

We had several docents stationed at each museum. Branch Elementary School even fed us lunch! As a special treat,

Arroyo Grande High School Jazz Band entertained us during lunch. Branch School was well-organized and the children well-behaved. One of the parents from the school said the children will be talking about this day a for a long time to come!

I want to say a special thank you to **Ross Kongable, Kirk Scott, Joe Swigert, Jeff Kime, Don Gullickson, Berneda Cochran, Norma Harloe, Barbara Sturtevant and Dee Dee Baggett** for docenting the museums.

If you would like to help at any of our school tour events,
please contact **Linda Kime** at 489-1837.



PATTERNS OF THE PAST

from the Archives—By Berneda Cochran



SEAGULL ROCK, PISMO BEACH

“My grandfather told me when I was a lad (about 1925) to dig around the Sea Gull Rock in Shell Beach on what was the Borba Ranch then. When the freeway went through in the 1950’s, part of the rock was blasted away and the freeway goes right past it on both sides. Although on private property, it was a favorite picnic place.

Grandfather said that a shipment of gold being shipped from San Francisco to Los Angeles was to come through here, the central coast, by horse drawn stage.

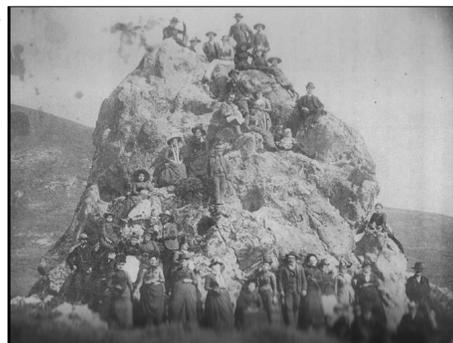
Three robbers found out about it and came over here and waited up the canyon for the stage to arrive. There was a shoot out and the guards were killed as well as two of the robbers. One robber got away with a canister of \$20 gold pieces.

This lone robber was found next day but without the gold. He was arrested and sentenced to prison without divulging the hiding place of the gold. Years later he finally told a friend who visited him that he buried it near the Sea Gull Rock!

It has been a treasure hunt ever since. People have dug all around the rock and even up nearby canyons. If it was ever found, no one is telling. In the 1920’s, when Ted Fermin was farming the Pismo Heights, before houses were built there, he found a \$20 gold piece.

(Source: Walter Xaviel) (Story: Billie Swigert & Jean Hubbard)

In the SCHS publication “Yesterday Today Tomorrow” Vol. 5



CARRETAS

Excerpts from an article written by Dan Krieger for the *Telegram-Tribune* - SCHS Archives 2013.002.020

Lack of timber made carreta-building a challenge.

Many visitors to towns and cities of the Central Coast remark on the relative absence of trees. Yet there are many more trees today than there were a hundred years ago. For the Spanish Padres and early rancheros, timber of sufficient size for building was usually more scarce than water.

Juan Francisco Dana, son of Captain William G. Dana recalled these timber-scarce days to author Marie Harrington in about 1930:

"Ten years ago before I was born the first ship ever to be built in California was constructed by Captain Dana, who at the time was courting my mother. In 1828 California was still such a new land that there was no sawmill or anything else much in the way of 'improvements.' Captain Dana decided, however, that he needed another schooner for his trade with the Sandwich Islands so he set about having one built.

"He selected a spot to the north of Santa Barbara, which to this day, is called Goleta from the fact that the ship was built near there.

"Lumber in its manufactured shape was almost unknown and Captain Dana had to send east for the frame lumber. But the Californios did make use of a sawing pit and he used this board lumber for the inside of the vessel.

"A sawing pit was a curious affair and today's lumber mills would be amazed at the crudity of their early forerunners. The pit was nothing more than a hole in the ground with a frame over the top of the hole.

"The sides of the frame kept the pit sides from falling in and also served as a rack upon which to place the logs. A log would be placed on the frame and ripped with a big saw into boards, with one man standing in the pit and the second man over it.

"Eventually the ship was finished after a great deal of expense. Special runways leading down to the shoreline were built and a day was set aside for the great launching.

"Don Julian Foxen, being an ex-seaman and a good friend of Capt. Dana, was given the honor of launching the ship. He wanted to make a really fine affair out of this so he sent out a call to all his compadres and cousins-by-marriage to bring some oxen to "help launch the ship."

"So on the appointed day, the Californios arrived like a swarm of bees. There were over 50 yoke of oxen to help out Don Julian! When all the "cousins" found out that Don Julian had put one over on them they probably had a good laugh among themselves but they all stayed for the launching. The vessel was finally pushed down the runway into the water, to the overjoyed shouts of all present. I have heard that story so often that I almost believe I was there although it was 10 years before I was born!

"Our family on the Nipomo was almost self-sufficient in making the necessities of ranch life but we did not make our carretas which were the chief mode of travel, outside of the horse. Our carretas

were always made by our friend, Don Jose Ortega, who lived on the huge Refugio Rancho many miles south of us on the way to Santa Barbara.

"Nuestra Senora del Refugio was the whole name of this rancho but we always called it just Refugio. Don Jose was an expert carreta-maker.

"Lumber was almost as scarce as it had been when my father had built La Fama. When we were growing up, we had to get our lumber from around Cambria which was at least 60 or 70 miles west of us. Don Jose had just as much trouble getting suitable lumber for the carretas as he had to send his men from his rancho up to the Santa Cruz Mountains, which were a spur of the San Rafael range about 20 miles beyond the Santa Ynez section. A few red cedars were up in this area and sawing pits were located there and all our board lengths, too, came from this area.

"It was hard to get lumber out of the mountain country as the trails were very rough and of course, roads did not exist. So the carretas that Don Jose made were very much prized.

"(Through much masterful wood working), the carretas (were made) without a single nail. We didn't have many nails in those days anyway. Our carretas were made low and wide to prevent their overturning on a steep hill. Besides transporting our women-folk, they were used for heavy work on the rancho. Our Indian servants would also use them for wood-gathering expeditions and the wood would not spill out even coming down a steep hill.

"These carretas were hitched to oxen by the pole to the yoke with rawhide thongs. Some of these old-time yokes can still be seen in mission museums and also at the Southwest Museum down in Los Angeles. They certainly did good service a century ago in California."



The Anza Trail through Pismo Beach

By Effie McDermott

Price Historical Park in Pismo Beach is designated by the National Park Service as an Interpretive Site on the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. The Anza Trail commemorates the route taken in 1776 by Juan Bautista de Anza in bringing the first Spanish colonists to California.

The Anza Expedition on the West Coast was akin to the Mayflower on the East Coast, in that it was the first colony of families to establish a permanent settlement in California. Before the Anza Expedition, Spain's presence in California consisted of soldiers and priests.

Juan Bautista de Anza was born in about 1734 in New Spain in what is now northern Mexico. His family was Basque. His father, also a Spanish soldier, was killed in the Apache conflict in New Spain when young Anza was a small boy. By 1775, at about age forty-two, young Anza had worked his way up in the military. He petitioned the Viceroy for permission to establish an overland route from Tubac (now in Arizona) to Alta California. This had been his father's dream, and was now his.

The exploratory expedition came through Price Canyon in 1775 to establish the route, after which they returned home. On October 23, 1775, Anza embarked on the expedition that would engrave his name in history. He led a caravan of settlers to Monterey, where they arrived March 10, 1776. Their eventual destination was the village of Yerba Buena on the bank of the Rio San Francisco. Anza returned home, but by September, the colony that would become San Francisco was established.

The expedition was made up of about three hundred people, including the military escort, muleteers, cowboys, and one hundred ninety-seven settlers. Eighty-seven of the settlers were children age twelve or under. They brought a thousand livestock and nine tons of supplies and implements. There was a tent for the commander and his servants, two more tents for three *padres* and their assistants, and another ten tents for the families. The rest slept outside.

They were a traveling city that stretched one mile long as it threaded its way along. First came the people, walking and on horseback. Then the mule train; then the *caballada* or horse herd; and last were the *vaqueros* and cattle herd. Every evening the mules were unpacked and every morning the muleteers repacked the supplies on the backs of the mules.

On March 1, 1776, they walked up wide sandy Pismo State Beach and turned into Price Canyon.



At the place where the Price House was later built, they set up their tents for the night. In the morning they had breakfast over their campfires, repacked the mules, said Mass, and when they heard "Mount up!" they began moving. Singing the *Alabado*, as they had done every morning, they fell into line and walked north through Price Canyon.

The next camp would be at Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa.

When the expedition concluded, Anza became governor of the Spanish territory now known as New Mexico. He was married and had no children, but raised two nephews. He died twelve years after the expedition, in his early fifties.

— Effie McDermott is president of Friends of Price House and conducts tours at Price Historical Park.

The National Park Service shares our nation's treasures - one of them is the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. The Anza Trail is one of 19 National Historic Trails. The Anza Trail commemorates the men, women, and children who travelled 1,900 miles overland in 1775-76 from present-day Mexico to establish a community at San Francisco Bay.

Our Condolences to
The family of
Howard Mankins

Healing Prayers for
Berneda Cochran
Lia Kalpakoff

Volunteer hours for April
500
Docent hrs
77
Year to date
2,162

WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS

Jack San Filippo
Terry San Filippo
Elinor Murray

Additions to the Membership Directory

Jill Hoving - Guadalupe 805.801.4693
Charles Jordan - Arroyo Grande 805.489.3465
Elinor Murray - Arroyo Grande 805.489.2535
Toni & Mark Pelletier - Arroyo Grande 805.489.5100
Diller Ryan - San Luis Obispo 805.544.8185
Jack San Filippo - San Luis Obispo
Terry San Filippo - Avila Beach
Sue & Joe Schimandle - Arroyo Grande 805.489.8378

Our 2013 Membership Directory is now available.
If you would like a copy,
please call 805-489-8282

Annual Membership Dues

Individual	\$ 20.00
Couple	\$ 35.00
Family w/children under 18	\$ 40.00
Sustaining (Individual)	\$100.00
Patron:	\$200.00
Business, Organization, Individual	
<u>Life (Individual or Couple)</u>	\$500.00
May be paid in 12 monthly installments.	

The Society is structured as a
 non-profit organization 501(c)3
 (Federal Tax ID 95-3539454)
 and depends solely on donations to continue its work.

You can help!
Write a (tax-deductible) check to the
South County Historical Society,
and mail it to:

South County Historical Society
 PO Box 633, Arroyo Grande, CA 93421-0633



2013 MEMBERSHIP — SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CHANGES? **NEW** **GIFT** **RENEWAL**

Please print legibly.

Name (s) * _____

Address * _____

Home Tel: * _____ Cell Tel: * _____ Email: * _____

Type of Membership _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Check No. _____

Please mail check or money order payable to **SOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,**
PO Box 633, Arroyo Grande Ca 93421.

* Starred information will be printed in the annual Membership Directory distributed to members
 unless you indicate otherwise here.

PO Box 633
Arroyo Grande CA 93421

visit our website
www.SouthCountyHistory.org
Friend us on Facebook

email
SCHS76@sbcglobal.net



DON'T FORGET! MARK YOUR CALENDAR! BRING A FRIEND!

SUMMER HISTORIC THEATRE IS BACK!

**MEMBERS ONLY
RECEPTION & PREVIEW**

Vigilantes!

(formerly titled This Terrible Tragedy)

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

**6PM - WINE/HORS D'OEUVRES
6:30 - LIVE PERFORMANCE**

SUMMER CONCERTS IN THE PARK

This summer's schedule of concerts held in Heritage Park are listed below. The South County Historical Society participates with the sale of hot dogs, lemonade, soft drinks, Doc Burnstein Ice Cream, popcorn.

We need volunteers to work in the booth,

Please contact Richard Lasiewski at
RLash45@gmail.com or call 481-5356

June 9

June 23

July 4

July 14

July 28

August 11

August 25

September 8

September 22